

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11

RSC-01 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /192 W

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R 200915Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, OAU, AS

SUBJ: ATTENDANCE OF PRG AND VARIOUS NATIONAL
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AT GENEVA CONFERENCE
ON LAW OF WAR

REF: (A) STATE 027026

(B) STATE 027778

(C) STATE 028943

1. EMBOFF LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE FEB 15 AT AUSTRALAIAN DEPT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH LOOMES (EQUIVELENT TO LEGAL
ADVISER) , EMBODYING POINTS IN REFTELS. LOOMES SAID
THAT AUSTRALIAN BRIEF FOR AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO
GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BUT
NOT YET APPROVED BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AS
OF AFTERNOON FEB 20 LOCAL TIME, BRIEF HAD STILL NOT BEEN
APPROVED, AND EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING AS BEST GUIDE TO
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY. WE DO NOT BELEIVE ANY
POLICY ISSUES INVOLVED. FOREIGN MINISTER'S WIFE HAS BEEN
ILL, AND HE HAS SPENT LITTLE TIME IN OFFICE RECENTLY.

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2. RE PRG, LOOMES SAID DFA RECOMMENDATION IS TO OPPOSE ADMISSION OF PRG AS NOT BEING SOVEREIGN STATE. HE SAID AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PRESENT MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM, AS AUSTRALIA HAD VOTED FOR RESOLUTION ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AT LAST UNGA. HOWEVER, HE NOTED

POINTS IN REF A REGARDING RULES 59 AND 60 WHICH WOULD ALLOW FORM OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION AND SAID HE WOULD BRING THESE POINTS TO ATTENTION OF CABINET.

3. RE REF C, EMBASSY HAS TRIED JOINT APPROACH WITH GVN EMBASSY TO GOA IN PAST BUT FOUND THIS NOT ONLY UNPRODUCTIVE BUT CAUSED PUZZLEMENT AND SOME RESENTMENT IN GOA OFFICIALS, WHO FOUND CONVERSATION INHIBITED BY PRESENCE OF GVN OFFICIAL. WE KEEP IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH GVN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA AND BELIEVE OUR JOINT EFFORTS, IF NOT WHOLLY CONCERTED, ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, DR. JIM CAIRNS, IS WELL KNOWN ADVOCATE FOR RECOGNITION OF PRG, BUT HE HAS NOT RECENTLY SPOKEN UP ON SUBJECT, AND AUSTRALIAN POSITION SEEMS TO BE SATISFACTORY TO U.S. ON PRG ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. POSITION IS LESS CERTAIN WITH REGARD TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, BUT FINAL DECISION APPARENTLY NOT YET MADE WITHIN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.

GREEN

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